

REMARKS

Status of Claims:

Claims 4, 7, and 8 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 1 has been amended with the features of previously pending claim 4. Claim 2 has been amended with the features of previously pending claim 7.

Thus, claims 1-3, 5-6, and 9-11 are present for examination.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for the indication that claims 4, 7, 8, and 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent claim 1 has been amended with the features of previously pending dependent claim 4 and, thus, independent claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 2 has been amended with the features of previously pending dependent claim 7 and, thus, independent claim 2 is believed to be allowable.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeshita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,145,835) (hereinafter Takeshita). Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9, and 10 are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Makai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,462,920) (hereinafter Makai).

With respect to claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9, and 10, as amended, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended with the features of previously pending dependent claim 4. The Examiner indicated that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore, independent claim 1, as amended, is believed to be allowable.

Because they depend from independent claim 1, dependent claims 3, 5, and 10 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 2 has been amended with the features of previously pending dependent claim 7. The Examiner indicated that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore, independent claim 2, as amended, is believed to be allowable.

Because they depend from independent claim 2, dependent claims 6, 9, and 11 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that independent claim 2 is believed to be allowable.

Conclusion:

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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